



## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WESTERN REGION SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



**JUNE 17, 2003**

### REGIONAL DIRECTOR

**Successful Western Region Conferences:** Kudos to the planning teams for the recent MIC/HIC, WCM, and ITO conferences. All three conferences held during the recent weeks fostered excellent discussions and participation by attendees. Guest speakers from NOAA, other NOAA offices, and the private sector shared their expertise. Action items from each conference will be issued soon, and I look forward to working with all of you to complete these items.



*(l to r)* NWS Director Jack Kelly and WR Director Vickie Nadolski present WFO Spokane MIC John Livingston with the Isaac M. Cline Award. Livingston accepts the award on behalf of his staff.

**Award Recipients Recognized:** Several individuals and groups were recognized with awards during the recent conferences.

NWS Director Jack Kelly presented a few of the 2003 Isaac M. Cline Awards to Western Region officials while he was in Salt Lake City to kick off the MIC/HIC conference. The Cline Award is NOAA's highest honor.

A team from WFO Spokane received the Cline Award for their leadership and support of their Upper Air Observation Program. These employees were recognized for operational excellence in the delivery of products and services in support of the Weather Service mission. The team is made up of Verne Ballard, Bob Bonner, Bob Cummings, Irwin Haynes, Milton Maas, Stan Savoy, Larry Sossaman, Rob Sumpter, and Merri Wallace.



*(l to r)* WR Director Vickie Nadolski and NWS Director Jack Kelly present Shelley Heaps with the Cline Award.

Shelley Heaps, the Equal Employment Opportunity Manager at WRH, was also recognized during the MIC/HIC meeting in Salt Lake City. She received the Cline Award in the Support Services category for her expertise in human resource issues and for demonstrating excellent leadership and support for Western Region's Diversity Program.

During the WCM Conference in Reno, two Western Region WCMs were recognized with NOAA awards.

Tanja Fransen, WFO Glasgow, was one of the national winners of the Issac M. Cline Award. Cultivating working relationships with emergency management, law enforcement, and the general public is part of Tanja's job. She educates many NWS partners and customers about the serious drought in Montana and the West. She has made a big effort in helping the public learn personal safety skills needed whether they're facing flooding to severe thunderstorms or winter storms.

Also, during the WCM Conference in Reno, WFO Pendleton WCM Dennis Hull was recognized for receiving the prestigious NOAA Administrator's Award in the Information Systems category for his efforts in public service and the implementation of the expansion of the network by adding five new NOAA Weather Radio information systems in southeast Washington and northeast Oregon last year.

**2003 Jefferson and Holm Award Winners:** The NWS Cooperative Observer Program is honoring ten observers with Thomas Jefferson Awards and 19 observers with John Campanius Holm Awards for 2003. These two prestigious awards recognize outstanding cooperative observers. Of these national awards, Western Region observers received one Jefferson and 7 Holm Awards.

***Jefferson Award:*** Joseph Von Stein, Cascade 5S, MT, nominated by WFO Great Falls

***Holm Award:*** Axel Larsen, Bredette, MT, nominated by WFO Glasgow; Elmer Haak, Mt. Laguan #2, CA, nominated by WFO San Diego; Joseph Vavrousky, Moccasin Experiment Station, MT, nominated by WFO Great Falls; Joe Jr. and Barbara Cabral, Salsipuedes Gaging Station, CA, nominated by WFO Los Angeles; Sandy Nott, Twitchell Dam, CA, nominated by WFO Los Angeles; The Sanders Family, Ft. Thomas 2SW, AZ, nominated by WFO Tucson; and Mrs. Troy Moore, Plain, WA, nominated by WFO Spokane

## DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR



(l to r) WFO Spokane MIC John Livingston, Richard Slagle, and WR Deputy Director Jim Campbell

### **Washington State Resident Receives Holm Award:**

Richard Slagle of Republic, Washington, received the John Campanius Holm Award, a national honor for his dedication to observing and reporting weather for almost 46 years. The award was presented on June 12 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS). Mr. Slagle also received the Richard Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service. Mr. Slagle received his awards at a ceremony at the Republic Community Library. Nearly 50 people from the small town attended the ceremony. Staff from the NWS forecast office in Spokane also attended the ceremony.

**2003 Mark Trail Awards:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration presented Mark Trail NOAA Weather Radio Awards to nineteen individuals or agencies during June 17 ceremonies held in Washington, D.C. All the recipients were involved in projects to expand or significantly improve NOAA Weather Radio coverage with substantial monetary savings to the NOAA National Weather Service (NWS).

Within the NWS Western Region, honorees include:

- C **Idaho emergency managers Ken Fagnant (Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services in Pocatello) and Dennis Godfrey (Caribou County Public Safety Office in Soda Springs).** Fagnant and Godfrey received recognition for their support of the expansion of a NOAA Weather & All Hazards Radio in eastern Idaho. They were key in the installation of a NOAA Weather Radio transmitter that provides 24-hour weather coverage for people in the rugged mountain region of southeast Idaho known as the Caribou Highlands.
- C **The Washington State Emergency Management Division (WSEM).** WSEM has been instrumental in the installation or upgrade of three weather radio transmitters in eastern Washington in the past eighteen months. The state has installed the hazards warning system for the Umatilla Army Depot Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program and provided the transmitter for Goldendale, which serves the eastern Columbia River Gorge.
- C **Steve Johnson and Associates, of Fresno, California.** Johnson was recognized for expanding the NOAA Weather Radio network in central California. He has donated numerous NOAA Weather Radio receivers to area primary and secondary health care facilities and to the Office of Emergency Services Managers, special schools-in-need, and other selected facilities.
- C **Norm Parrent of Miles City, Montana.** Parrent was recognized for assisting to get four new NOAA Weather Radios in the towns of Baker, Broadus, Circle and Jordan. He coordinated installation of the transmitters with the county Disaster and Emergency Services and the Billings and Glasgow NWS Forecast Offices.

**Lightning Awareness Week:** The week of June 23-27 is National Lightning Awareness Safety campaign. Many of you have spent considerable time coordinating your outreach efforts with partnering agencies in your county warning area. This advance planning will pay off with increased awareness and education and lives saved. Thank you for taking an active role in this national campaign and good luck next week.

## **METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

**Western Region Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Workshop:** Western Region hosted a WCM workshop in Reno, Nevada, on June 9-13. Each of the 24



Paul Flatt, WFO Boise, gives a presentation at the WCM workshop.

Western Region offices was represented, as well as Western Region Headquarters and WFOs Honolulu and Guam. Numerous topics were discussed throughout the week, including the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) and associated outreach programs, NOAA Weather Radio, Storm/Tsunami Ready, weather warning issues, and hydrological and fire weather support. NWS Headquarters representatives gave presentations on the national WCM program, public affairs, the Emergency Alert System, verification, performance measures, and climate services. NOAA HAZMAT and NWS Headquarters gave presentations on support to Homeland Security and NWS response

to hazardous materials spills. Additionally, Vickie Nadolski (NWS Western Region Director) and Keith Meier (MIC, WFO Billings) discussed the roles of the WCM (current and future), including leadership and career development. The workshop concluded with a series of break-out sessions, focusing on marine/tsunami issues, mountain weather, and severe weather.

## HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

**Two WR Climate Services Steering Committee Meetings:** The WFO Climate Services Steering Committee met in Salt Lake City during the MIC/HIC workshop the week of June 2-5, 2003. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the WFO Climate Services Implementation Plan to the MIC/HICs. A draft was provided for each office, and comments are due back to Andrea Bair by June 30, 2003. The WFO Steering Committee also completed the final draft of the agenda for the upcoming WR Climate Services Conference in Reno, Nevada, September 9-11, 2003. A draft will be sent to all offices for comments after the RFCs have provided their input to the agenda.

The RFC Climate Services Steering Committee also met for the first time during this week. The goal of the RFC meeting was to establish role of the RFC Climate Services Steering Committee and decide on initial tasks for the committee to work on. The RFCs are currently reviewing the draft of the goals for this committee and should have comments back to Andrea Bair by June 27, 2003.

## SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

**Great Divide Workshop:** WFO Glasgow has extended the deadline for submission of topics for the Seventh Annual Great Divide Workshop to July 1, 2003. You still have time to submit a topic for the Great Divide Workshop. Topics can be submitted on-line at <http://www.wr.noaa.gov/Glasgow/divide.shtml>. Also, if you are interested in just attending, please register on-line at the same location. The workshop is scheduled for August 26-28, 2003.

We are please to announce the following speakers and their tentative topics for the Great Divide Workshop:

- C Dr. James Moore, Saint Louis University -- Heavy Precipitation in the Western U.S.
- C Dr. Walt Lyons, Forensic Meteorology Associates, Inc -- Sprites and Jets
- C Brad Grant, Warning Decision Training Branch -- Effective Warning Methodologies
- C Ed O'Lenic, Climate Prediction Center -- MJO in Climate Prediction
- C Robert Kelly, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center -- WFO-HPC collaboration in NDFD
- C Dan McCarthy, Storm Prediction Center -- Severe Weather from May 4-11, 2003
- C Kirby Cook, Western Region Scientific Services Division -- NCEP's Non-Hydrostatic Model and IMET support.

**Arizona Summer Workshop:** The Arizona Summer Workshop will be held June 25-26 in Phoenix and will be hosted by WFO Phoenix and the Salt River Project. The workshop will focus on convective storm forecasting, flash flood forecasting, the North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME) project, IFPS/GFE, warning decision making, and drought status and its hydrological implications.

**WES/IFPS Due Date Reminders:** Western Region's WFOs have two WES/IFPS suspense items due on July 1. They are a TA-Lite explaining the meteorology of one summer case, and a summary of the IFPS training conducted by the office to prepare for the ORD and IOC.

**North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME):** On June 2-4, WFO Tucson hosted a meeting a meeting with Servicio Meteorologico Nacional (SMN) (Mexico's Weather Service) and Creighton University. They, along with Erik Pytlak (SOO, WFO Tucson), laid much of the groundwork for the North American Monsoon Experiment's Forecast Operations Center, which will reside at WFO Tucson in 2004. Forecasters from WFOs San Diego, Las Vegas, Flagstaff, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, and El Paso, along with the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center and Storm Prediction Center, have volunteered to be part of this forecast operations team.

During the week of June 16, Erik Pytlak and Stan Czyzyk (SOO WFO Las Vegas) will travel to SMN in Mexico City to finalize the coordination plans between the Forecast Operations Center and the SMN Mexico City Forecast Office. Additionally Erik and Stan will observe SMN's daily operations during the height of the summer monsoon in southern and central Mexico.

## **SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**NWR:** The Potosi Mt. NWR (WNG-634) was installed June 4 and will be accepted June 26. The installation was performed by Joe Lachacz (WRH). The transmitter was funded by the NWS.

The John Day, OR (WGN 560) NWR transmitter is on air. The NWR was installed in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the Pendleton, OR NWS Office.

**WR ESA/ITO Workshop:** The NWS WR is hosting an ESA/ITO workshop in this week Salt Lake City. The workshop began on June 17 and will wrap up on June 19. The workshop agenda is set to include WFO best practice presentations, AWIPS, IFPS, WFO networking, IT security, IT training, CIO topics, and a breakout session designed specifically for the ESAs and ITOs.

**AWIPS Activities:** Operational Build 2 is planned for field release in the July/August time frame. Four NWS beta test sites will install OB2 on June 16 and 17. The OB2 install will take from 7 to 8 hours (Parts 1-15) to complete, depending upon the number of workstations. Part 0 (Pre-installation requirements) will take about 3 hours and should be done several days before the upgrade. Operational WFOs may wish to do Part 0 step 10a and b to obtain OB2 WWA and WarnGen templates even earlier so they can customize the templates well in advance of the upgrade. Because of the time it takes, these sites may wish to do this a week or more before they do the upgrade. The text data ingest downtime will be 1 to 3 hours. Model data will be queued up by the PXs during the upgrade and should not be lost. The system should be available to use about 6 hours after starting the upgrade.